

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on May 2, 2006. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has required a new, more descriptive title. The title has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hakimi et al (US 6,370,297).

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Heflinger et al (EP 1065764).

Although Applicant traverses the above rejections, for the purposes of expediting allowance, claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of claim 5.

There is a significant structural difference between Heflinger et al and the present invention. In Heflinger et al, ONLY the tapered section is attached to the dual clad fiber (as is clear from Fig. 7 of Heflinger et al, and quoting from para. 29: "In this embodiment, an end 102 of the multimode fiber 25 is tapered in diameter and fused at its interface 103 to the dual clad fiber 20."). In contrast, in the present invention, as stated clearly at the end of the second paragraph of the detailed description on page 4: "The attachment section 33 of the pump-guiding fiber 30 may be attached to the receiving fiber 40 in **both the straight core section 34 and tapered core section 35** as illustrated in Fig. 2.". This structure has been clearly claimed in the amended claim 1 and is deemed patentable over the cited art. Claim 9 has been added to claim further patentable features that are clear from Fig. 2 of the original disclosure and no new matter has been added.

In light of the above amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-9 are deemed allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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